

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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REDEFINING EPA: Overhauling an agency and its mission -- Complete coverage

January 24, 2018

Latest News

After SAB Changes, Academics Plan Panel To Review EPA Science Products

A group of academic engineers and scientists is creating a new panel to peer review draft EPA science products, and will be chaired by a former member of the agency's Science Advisory Board (SAB), in reaction to their concerns with changes that Administrator Scott Pruitt has made to SAB in recent months.

EPA Defends Landfill Methane Rule Stay, Faults Suit's Procedural Flaws

Even as the Trump administration scraps plans to impose lengthy delays on Obama-era methane rules for landfills, EPA is defending its decision to adopt an initial short-term pause on implementing the rules, arguing that environmentalists' suit over the now-expired stay has procedural flaws such as a lack of standing to sue.

EPA, FWS Delay Pesticide BiOps, Spurring Fears Of Trump Interference

EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have delayed completing reviews of certain pesticides' risks to endangered species despite another agency finishing a similar review in advance of a court-ordered deadline, spurring environmentalist fears that the Trump administration is derailing a novel Obama-era review process.

EPA, Allies Say Deference Supports CWA Transfer Rule In High Court Case

EPA and supporters of its 2008 rule exempting transfers of water from the Clean Water Act's (CWA) discharge permit system are arguing in a pending Supreme Court challenge to the regulation that it lawfully follows Congress' intent and that an appellate court properly deferred to the agency's legal interpretations in upholding it.

DHS Steps Up Push To Waive Environmental Laws For Border Wall

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is stepping up efforts to waive environmental laws to expedite construction of a wall and other physical barriers along the southern border, waiving requirements for new projects and asking Congress to renew its waiver authority that states and environmentalists charge in pending suits expired in 2008.

Biodiesel Makers, Refiners Detail Diverse Legal Attacks On EPA's 2017 RFS

Biodiesel producers and refiners in new legal briefs are detailing diverse legal attacks on EPA's 2017 renewable fuel standard (RFS), with the biodiesel sector saying the program's annual biodiesel targets are too low while refiners are primarily criticizing EPA for failure to consider moving the RFS' compliance "point of obligation."

Daily Feed

Dourson, controversial toxics nominee, departs EPA

The administration's failed pick to lead EPA's toxics office has now ended his tenure as an adviser to Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Industries fear dangerous precedent from Exxon citizen suit penalty

If the ruling is imposed more broadly, "it threatens to transform citizen suits from civil actions designed to resolve concrete controversies into regulatory vehicles for dictating environmental policy," the groups say.

D.C. Circuit sets argument in CWA FOIA suit

The appeals court will hear argument on March 12 in a case testing whether EPA violated the Freedom of Information Act by withholding documents even though it ultimately turned them over.

EPA seeks to stay suit over regional haze program update

EPA says its plan to reconsider an Obama-era rule revising the regional haze emissions reduction program justifies putting litigation over the rule in abeyance.

Ewire: Refiner's bankruptcy puts new spotlight on RFS

Philadelphia Energy Solutions, the largest East Coast refiner, has filed for bankruptcy, putting a new spotlight on EPA's renewable fuel standard even as GOP lawmakers struggle to reach a deal on reforming it.

Community groups plan Superfund tax push

"We must reinstate the Polluter's Pay Fees in order to provide the necessary funds to clean up the hundreds of contaminated sites around the country," one group says.

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